

U.S. assists in book delivery

By U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sergeant Amy L. Forsythe
CJCMOTF PAO

KABUL, Afghanistan — Nearly 100 college-level textbooks and journals were delivered to Kabul University chancellor's office Sunday. The scientific and medical books made their way from northern California to Kabul with the help of the U.S. military and the persistence of Khorshied Nusratty, an Afghan-American television news reporter for Fox News on assignment in Kabul.

The books and journals were gathered and donated by the California Section of the American Chemical Society at the request of Dr. Igor Sobolev, a former chemistry professor at University of California at Berkeley and a close friend of the Nusratty family.

The shipment originated from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and flown to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan on a space available basis. Nusratty made contact in January with Bagram Air Base, the Civil Military Coordination Center and the Public Affairs Office at the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force in Kabul to inquire about getting the books offloaded and delivered to the right place.

The books were stored at the CJCMOTF compound until the delivery could be made. Staff Sgt. Juanita Saez, 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, Mattydale, NY, accompanied Nusratty to the campus to drop-off the books. They were received by the director of the chancellor's office, Mohammed Muktar, and delivered to the Faculty of Nature and Science.

Saez, from Alameda, Calif., is a graduate

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Photo by Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

Caring packages...

The East End Elementary School in Easley, S.C. sent soldiers here some items to help them through their deployment. The items include candy, food, hygiene items, lotion and letters. The first through fifth grade school sent nine boxes, totaling \$3,000. To pick up a bag of goodies visit the chapel, Motel 6 or the Red Cross.

Challenges remain for re-up

By Spc. Jim Wagner
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — While the non-stop operations tempo of training and recall alerts at the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, N.C., would have some soldiers looking for a way out after their enlistment term, deployment to Afghanistan is having the opposite effect.

The challenge remains, however, for career counselors to get first-term and mid-careerists to sign up for another hitch in the Army.

Since arriving roughly four months ago Master Sgt. Joseph Wolfe, the senior brigade career counselor at Kandahar, said his staff has re-enlisted 130 soldiers. Last quarter, he added, they were 12 percent over the mission goal for the brigade.

That might not seem like much at face value, but the pressure to get first-term soldiers who only joined for the GI Bill, or to get mid-careerists to stay onboard despite very little incentive to do so, can be a challenge.

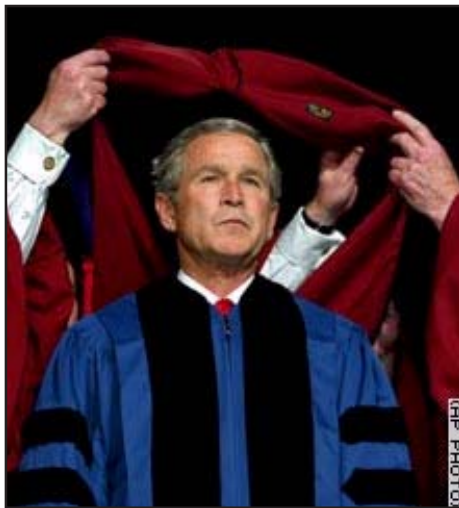
Part of the answer to the re-enlistment challenge, Wolfe said, can be found in the deployments the 82nd has endured the past several years.

"I've found that you get (soldiers) doing what they've been trained to do, they're more apt to re-enlist," Wolfe said. "First-termers are the hardest to get; they come in for the GI Bill and the bonuses, and after their four years they want to go on to bigger and better things."

There's still a lot of work involved getting soldiers to reenlist, according to Staff

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



President Bush receives an honorary doctor of law degree from the University of South Carolina in Columbia on Friday.

Bush proposes Mideast free-trade zone

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The United States will use its “influence and idealism” to “replace old hatred with new hopes” in the Middle East, establishing a free-trade zone with countries in the region within a decade and working to improve their educational and legal systems, President Bush said Friday.

“Reformers in the Middle East are gaining influence, and the momentum of freedom is growing,” Bush told graduates at the University of South Carolina in a commencement address. “We have reached a moment of tremendous promise, and the United States will seize that moment for the sake of peace.”

“The way forward to the Middle East is not a mystery. It is a matter of will and vision and action. The way forward depends on serving the interests of the living, instead of settling the accounts of the past.”

The president also said the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, showed that reform in the Middle East is directly in the U.S. national interest.

“The bitterness of that region can bring violence and suffering to our own cities. The advance of freedom and peace in the Middle East would drain this bitterness and increase our own security,” he said.

Bush made his remarks the same day that Secretary of State Colin Powell left for the Middle East to discuss a U.S.-backed “road map” for the peace process with regional

leaders, including new Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who is popularly known as Abu Mazen, and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

The president said Powell will carry his “personal commitment” to work “without tiring” toward establishment of an independent Palestinian state, living side-by-side in peace with Israel.

Cleveland police: University gunman in custody

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Seven hours after a gunman entered a building at Case Western Reserve University and began firing — killing at least one person — police said they had him in custody and were reuniting dozens of terrified people with their families.

“We have a male in custody, and at this time we believe he is either the shooter or one of the shooters,” Cleveland Police Chief Edward Lohn said. He had no details of the arrest.

Lohn said about 70 people had been pinned inside the building while the gunman roamed inside, and “almost all” of them had been escorted out.

“We have trained for this and tonight, hopefully, this is over and it has been concluded,” Lohn said.

Officials said one man was killed and at least 10 others were wounded in the incident, in which faculty, students and staff hid under desks and barricaded their doors to hide from the gunman.

Janice Guhl, a spokeswoman for University Hospital, said the victim was a 30-year-old man from Youngstown, Ohio, who was studying for a master’s degree. He died at the scene, she said.

Passengers sucked from plane in midflight

KINSHASA, Congo — As many as 140 soldiers, wives and their children were sucked out of a Russian-made cargo plane when the aircraft’s rear door flew open during a flight over the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Details of what happened are still unclear.

The government said seven people flew from the IL-76, but wire services are reporting a much higher death toll.

Daniel Wangisha, a Reuters cameraman, told CNN that one of the surviving passengers reported that as many as 140 passengers were missing. Immigration officials at the airport told him later Friday that as many as 400 people boarded the plane Thursday night.

Two officials at the airport in Congo’s capital, Kinshasa, separately told The Associated Press that at least 129 people were feared dead. Survivors described being battered by swirling baggage and cargo as the cabin lost pressure.

The plane was carrying members of President Joseph Kabila’s special guard and their wives and children, Wangisha told CNN.

The privately-owned IL-76 had apparently been chartered to fly Congolese police force members and their families from Kinshasa to the southeastern city of Lubumbashi — Congo’s second-biggest and home to a large military base.

It was not known how many people were on the plane or whether they had seats or seatbelts, the AP reported. People in Africa often travel on modified cargo planes that have few seats, leaving most passengers to cram in among their belongings in the rear of the aircraft.

U.S., Britain seek to run Iraq for at least a year

UNITED NATIONS — The U.S.-supported resolution that would lift almost all U.N. sanctions on Iraq also calls for the United States and Britain to run the country for at least a year, according to a copy of the draft resolution that CNN obtained.

Under the draft resolution, which the United States, Britain and Spain co-sponsored, all sanctions would be lifted except for the ban on arms sales to Iraq.

The resolution would classify the United States and Britain as “occupying powers,” giving them certain authority and responsibilities under international law such as providing security and ensuring that Iraqis are treated humanely.

BOOK DROP, from Page A1 —

of California State University at Hayward and is an advocate for Afghans getting a higher education. Saez, who's been in Afghanistan for six months, said, "Delivering those textbooks was one of the best humanitarian assistance missions I've been on so far."

Nusratty, who was born and raised in northern California, is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles with majors in Communications and Theater Arts. Nusratty's reporting assignment in Kabul has given her a first-hand observation of the devastation and suffering of Afghan people. It's also shown her the compassion of American and other coalition service members working here.

"It's been an education to see how good-hearted everyone is," Nusratty said. She hopes to be the conduit for further book donations to the campus and feels this is just the beginning of prosperity for young people in Kabul.

The textbooks and journals are written in English but are very useful to the teachers and students who have limited resources, she said. Kabul University has seen some of the most turbulent times, although it's been a hub of culture, growth and power since its establishment.

Kabul University is the largest educational institution in Afghanistan. It was established in 1932 in the eastern part of Kabul in the Kote Sangee neighborhood. Several schools, faculty, have been gradually established over the years: Faculty of Law and Political Science (1938), Natural Science (1941), Economy (1957), Agriculture (1962), Education (1962), Engineering (1962) and Pharmacy (1963).

In the 1960's, Kabul University became a center for political movement as well as a training ground for the future political leadership. According to an online BBC News article by Alan Johnson dated December 19, 2001, stated that "The students had first class libraries and laboratories, but the country beyond the university was one of the world's most backwards."

Johnson also reported, "The University was one of Asia's finest. The elite of Afghanistan passed through its doors. The



Photo by U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Amy L. Forsythe, CJCMOTF PAO

Army Staff Sgt. Juanita Saez, 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, Mattydale, N.Y., assisted in the delivery of the books on behalf of CJCMOTF who stored the books for weeks until they could be delivered.

campus was built mostly with American money, with British and French professors who taught in buildings linked by gardens and tree-lined avenues."

This is a place where fine young minds gathered on campus, hungry for ideas that could bring rapid change. "Some looked to Soviet-style Communism for a solution, others were drawn to China and Maoism, and still others believed that the answers lay in political Islam," Johnson's article went on to explain.

After several campus demonstrations, fights and eventually some deaths, the political future of the university and the country was uncertain. In April 1978, the communist revolution would change the university and Afghanistan forever.

Students and professors said goodbye to Western academic friends as the Russians moved in. But the university's troubles really began after the Mujahuddin guerillas captured Kabul and the university in the spring of 1992. "Laboratory equipment was smashed and sold for scrap, landmines were strewn in the campus gardens and dead bodies were stuffed down wells," according to Johnson's article.

The campus became a stronghold for many groups and due to heavy fighting among various Mujahuddin groups most

of the buildings were damaged or burned. The equipment and furniture were stolen or sold as scrap.

The university had barely begun to recover from the impact of factional fighting when the Taliban took control of Kabul, along with the campus, in 1995. In line with their almost total ban on female education, females were barred from all building. Additionally, the academic diversity was drastically narrowed.

Eventually, the campus was closed completely by the Taliban in 1996 and what equipment, furniture and books remained were sold for food or burned to keep them warm through the winter months. There was no electricity or water service for nearly 10 years, so signs of massive destruction still remain. However, over the last 18 months since the War on Terrorism began, professors and students alike have returned to the campus in hopes of restoring its once prestigious reputation.

CJCMOTF recently reconstructed the Faculty of Pharmacy in February 2003 at a cost of \$60,000 and continues to nominate projects that will improve the conditions for young adults striving for a higher education. A grand opening ceremony is scheduled for the Veterinary College, a \$130,000 project, May 18 at 0730Z at the university campus.

No findings, still success for ‘White Devils’

Story and photos by
Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — The second phase of Operation Vigilant Guardian kicked off from Kandahar Air Field May 1 with paratroopers from 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, N.C., leading their convoy towards Spin Buldak

near the Pakistan border.

The “White Devils” traveled through the dusty desert night on a mission to find and destroy weapon caches, seek out a suspected anti-aircraft missile and anti-coalition militia.

The routine mission for the paratroopers brought slim expectations.

“No one ever knows,” said Platoon sergeant, Sergeant 1st Class Joseph Johnson, B Co. 2/504th said about what he anticipated

for the mission.

In the course of three days, the soldiers searched through various villages in the vicinity of Spin Buldak including Shadizay, Kshatamil and Loy Kalay.

Although they didn’t find anything they were seeking, other than a couple of mortar rounds, the “Devils” still proved the operation’s success by performing their job by avoiding complacency and safely returning to Kandahar Air Field late May 3.



A girl watches as paratroopers get ready to search her village home.



A tired paratrooper takes a break during a village search.



A man stands in the door of his home, which is soon to be searched.



The villages searched during Operation Vigilant Lightning phase 2 included the area around Spin Buldak.

FREEDOM'S VOICES

The beauty behind the burqa

Just my Opinion

Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs
Detachment



Braided hair, black eye liner, jingling bracelets and henna-clad fingers of Afghan women are not seen by many soldiers, simply because of their Muslim culture — always hiding under the burqa.

Soldiers routinely conduct village searches, which entails searching people of the village. As part of the searches, soldiers ask the people to have all the women and children to go to one room while the area is being searched. Because of past incidents where women hid weapons under their burqas, Army females are more commonly being added to the passenger list for operations. Usually military police.

When I was tasked to go on a mission recently, as a journalist, I thought my primary job would be to take pictures and set up interviews, like I was trained to do. But I realize I am a soldier and I must do what I am needed to do. The last couple of operations I went on I was needed to help out with searching females.

"Peace. I am a woman. I have to search you," I said in Pashto as I entered the dark rooms taking off my helmet and sun-glasses to show the scared and innocent I was a female.

Usually the two- to three-year olds would

start crying and they would latch on to their mother's beaded burqas. Despite the language barrier, I would ask them through gestures to stand up and spread their arms.

Some looked directly in my eyes as I searched them, while others tried to hide underneath their robes. Some were shy and giggled as I patted down on their shoulders. They would pull out metal containers with beads from their dresses sequined with colors of blue, red, purple, pink and neon variations.

Of course I had my camera with me. I wanted to take pictures, but I didn't want to upset any of them. They were beautiful, yet so hidden. It is something I don't understand as an American and as someone who doesn't follow the Muslim's lifestyle in the Middle East and central Asia.

Although I didn't totally understand what they were saying, I knew they were trying to tell me, "See, I wasn't hiding anything," after I was finished.

A couple of times I met women who looked just like Russians. I asked through gestures if I could take their picture. "No, no," they would reply in Pashto.

I wished I was a fly on the wall that could just snap away and I would then be able to show the world their beauty. But all I could do was say thanks for cooperating and I would leave them in their dark huts where their beauty remains to be seen strictly by their families, military police females and maybe a female military journalist from time to time.

STREET TALK

What is the best Mother's Day present you've ever given/received?



"I took my mother out to eat and we spent the whole day together."

Spc. Jonathan Burrell
Co. B, 50th Sig. Bn.
Fort Bragg, N.C.



"Flowers."

Sgt. Troy Gray
Co. A, 2-50th PIR
Fort Bragg, N.C.



"Last year, my two sons cooked me breakfast in bed."

Carol Lower
PX Manager



"Homemade cards when I was a kid."

Airmen 1st Class
Charles Stevenson
455th Expeditionary
Operations Group
Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

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CENTCOM's Gen. Franks: 'Iraq's best days ... yet to come'

By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Fifty-two days after President Bush gave the go-ahead for military action in Iraq, the Army general who led the campaign stood in the Pentagon today and spoke of the mission's successes.

"Today, the Iraqi people no longer live in fear of a regime of Saddam Hussein," Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of the U.S. Central Command, told reporters. "Key regime figures are being brought to justice every day, one by one."

Other high points of coalition intervention in Iraq:

- Coalition forces have removed "hundreds of tons" of weapons and ammunition from schools, residential neighborhoods and religious sites.
- Iraqi children are returning to school.
- Basic services, such as healthcare, water and electrical power, are being restored throughout the country.

"And nations in the Red Sea and ... the Gulf region are no longer threatened by a regime in Iraq that attacked neighbors twice in the last 20 years," Franks said.

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Sgt. Shawn Joyce, a career counselor for the 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

He finds the mid-careerist to be the most challenging of the three categories (first term, mid-careerist and careerist) of soldiers up for re-enlistment. What makes it so difficult, he said, to re-enlist mid-careerists is that under current policy they are not offered the option they desire.

"Being assigned to a rapid deployment division can really wear down your family," he said. "It's a hard decision when you've got a family to think about also."

Sgt. Tim LaPraire, a practical nurse with the 307th Logistics Task Force, signed up for five more years through Kandahar career counselor Staff Sgt. Joel Lucero for the chance to attend the licensed practical nurse course offered at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Although he successfully challenged the board at the State of Texas for an LPN license in the state, he is not eligible to practice at civilian hospitals without completing an approved LPN course.

He could have, LaPraire said, got out at the end of his enlistment term and practiced

Coalition forces are also working with the government of Kuwait to find some 600 Kuwaiti citizens still missing from Iraq's 1990 invasion of its southern neighbor.

According to CENTCOM officials in southern Iraq, experts are "exploiting" a mass grave found near Samawah. Evidence at the site led the experts to believe the remains could be those of missing Kuwaitis.

Franks noted that Iraqi citizens are forming local governments and town councils. "Iraq's best days are yet to come," he said.

He echoed President Bush's May 1 comments aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln returning from the Gulf that major combat operations in Iraq are over. But, Franks cautioned, American troops "still stand in harm's way."

An American soldier from the Army's 5th Corps was killed in a bold daylight shooting in eastern Baghdad Thursday. CENTCOM officials in Iraq said the soldier was directing traffic at about 1 p.m. local time "when he was approached and shot by an unknown attacker with a pistol." The attacker escaped.

"I have every expectation that we will continue to see pockets of resistance, and we will see pockets of instability, and we will come across difficult situations in the weeks and in the months ahead," Franks said. "But our forces are up to the task."



Photo by Spc. Jim Wagner, 109th MPAD

Sgt. Timothy LaPraire, a practical nurse in the 307th Logistics Task Force, gives his re-enlistment oath Wednesday.

at a government hospital, but thought the Army schooling would pay off bigger dividends in the long term.

"(The Army's) got its ups and downs," he said. "You just have to keep pushing at it."

Making sure the soldier has more ups than downs is the responsibility of the

soldier's leadership, said Joyce. Good leadership, the career counselor said, is critical in getting someone to reenlist.

"Re-enlistment is a direct reflection of command climate," Joyce said. "The fact that (ours) was the top producing brigade for three out of four quarters for Fiscal Year 2003 adds proof to that statement."

Vietnam CMH recipient comes to Bagram

Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – With rounds whipping by his head and the sound of soldiers' screams ringing in his ears, 19 year-old Spec. Alfred Rascon, the reconnaissance platoon's only medic, collected his thoughts and suppressed his fears to treat his fallen comrades.

Although seriously wounded from gunshots and shrapnel, Rascon proceeded to do the only thing he could to protect his buddies from certain death – covered their bodies with his own to protect against the Vietnamese fire. Little did Rascon know, his valiant efforts on that day would win him the Congressional Medal of Honor.

More than 36 years later, Director of the Selective Service System Alfred Rascon is back on active duty after retiring three times. His mission, to encourage today's troops fighting the war on the "quiet front" and to let them know they haven't been forgotten.

"I resigned my commission as director of the Selective Service System in February and left my job as officer of the Surgeon General Army in the Pentagon to return to active duty," said Maj. Alfred Rascon. "With everything going on in the world I couldn't just sit around and do nothing, so when Lt. Gen. (Dan) McNeill gave me the opportunity to come and talk to the troops I took it."

Since his arrival to Afghanistan in April, Rascon has met with servicemembers from Bagram, Kandahar, K2 and other locations to boost their morale and encourage wounded troops.

"I have met with a couple soldiers, one who lost part of his foot due to a landmine and another who was involved in a firefight," said Rascon. "To see the pride and honor in their eyes when I walked into their hospital rooms almost brought me to tears. It reminded me of how little difference there is in



Maj. Alfred Rascon, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

these troops and the ones I served with decades ago."

After being deployed on several different fronts and having traveled all over the world, Rascon said American servicemembers are still the most selfless and loyal he's ever encountered.

"The only difference between today and yesterday's military is the advantage of technology," said Rascon. "The soldier, Marine, airman and sailor of today have the same heart and spirit of troops from 30 years ago. The way wars are fought may change, but the character the individuals who fight them, remains the same."

Even though Rascon's war fighting days are over, he relives them everyday through the eyes of the warriors he talks to on a daily basis.

"Not a day goes by that I don't think back to the day my true comradery was put to the test," said Rascon. "It doesn't matter if you're white or black, short or tall, when you're in the heat of battle, bleeding from gunshot and shrapnel wounds, all that matters is who you are right then, not who you were before. Loyalty and courage aren't measured by medals or awards but by the people who can face the sacrifice when things get ugly."

As a reward for "facing the sacrifice" during the Vietnam War, Rascon was nomi-

nated to receive the highest honor available to a U.S. servicemember – a fact that remained unknown to him for more than three decades.

"I went to an airborne reunion in Washington in 1995, where I met up with some NCOs (noncommissioned officers) from my reconnaissance platoon in Vietnam," said Rascon.

"I remember one of them asking me 'so how does it feel to be a Medal of Honor recipient?' When I told him I didn't know what he was talking about they decided to investigate."

"It turns out I was nominated for the CMH in 1966, but the paperwork was lost," he said. "Due to the perseverance of those NCOs, seven years later I was sitting in the White House listening to President (Bill) Clinton speak at my CMH ceremony."

As Rascon sat before a panel of senators, congressman and his commander and chief, he thought back to a time before his military career, when an honor like this was just a dream.

"As I sat through the ceremony, I couldn't help but ponder the irony of what was happening," said Rascon. "Here I was, a Mexican-born immigrant from the ghettos of Southern California, receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor from the President of the United States. It was definitely an accomplishment to be proud of."

As President Clinton spoke of all Rascon's achievements, a small yet significant statement stood out the most.

"President Clinton mentioned an event in my life when I was about seven or eight, when I made my own parachute, jumped off the roof of my house and broke my hand," said Rascon. "Around the same time, I remember a U.S. soldier giving me a patch with parachute wings on it before he went off to the Korean War. I have been airborne driven

Music Notes *(Compiled from MTV.com)*

50 Cent, still hungry after 4 million records

MTV — “No matter how successful you are or how far you get into the limelight,” 50 Cent insists, “you still gotta take precautions.”

And tonight in New Jersey, nobody is safer than the rapper born Curtis Jackson. Onstage at the Asbury Park Convention



50 Cent

Center, 50 is flanked by about 30 members of his G-Unit crew, most of them wearing bulletproof vests. “G-Unit in the house!” a topless 50 yells.

However, many of 50’s friends are not in the house. They’re stuck outside, being hassled by cocky security guards at the VIP entrance. “You know what they’re checking for, right?” a guard asks one of them. “Guns.”

Around the other side of the building, those who only know 50 through his music are having a harder time getting in, despite having paid to see the show. The fire marshal has declared the venue is filled to capacity.



50 Live At Hot 97 Block Party

The lesson for tonight is, if you want to see the MC who makes fun of wankstas, get there early. As king of the streets and the charts, 50’s in demand in a way the hip-hop world seldom sees. The 26-year-old is that rare artist whose music and image reverberate beyond his genre without too much ef-

fort or consequence from his core, thrusting him into the role of reluctant pop star.

But 50 Cent is a different kind of reluctant pop star. Like his bosses, fellow street-credible pop stars Eminem and Dr. Dre, 50 has piqued the buying public’s interests not by asking for the masses’ acceptance, but by making melodies and rhythms that hypnotize and by telling stories so vividly and effortlessly that they resonate universally.

And like Dre and Em, 50 hasn’t forgotten his roots. He’s still making mixtapes, doing street remixes of other artists’ current hits, and when he’s really feeling a tune, like Busta Rhymes’ “I Know What You Want,” he re-makes the whole song so it sounds like his own. DJs and fans are sticking to their MO as well, embracing everything he puts out.

Unlike Dre and Em, however, 50 doesn’t seem like he’d rather be in the studio than in the limelight. The Southside Queens native is relishing his moment.

“I’ll show you my teeth so much you’ll get tired,” 50 joked recently about his incessant smiling. “You’ll be like, ‘Man, is everything they said about him true? Because he’s out there showing his teeth like he’s happy.’”



“He’s brought back something that left when Biggie died.” — Mary J. Blige

“When [you meet] him, people will make you think he’s gonna be mean,” said Lil’ Mo, who’s known 50 since 1999. “I got his autograph for my little brother. That’s how I have it with him, we’re peoples. Now when I see him I’m like, ‘You’re all right. If y’all ever wanna come over, I’ll make you a plate.’”

“What I appreciate about 50 Cent is he’s

brought back something that left when Biggie died, and that’s people can go out and have a good time and party,” said Mary J. Blige, who worked with the MC for her upcoming album, *Love and Life*. “They can go to the club and dance to something that feels good. Right now other than Jay-Z, that’s the only thing that exists like that.

Ol’ Dirty lays down track with pharrell before turning into a pumpkin

NEW YORK — “It feels good being out and just jumping back into my music,” the ODB, a.k.a. Dirt McGirt, said Thursday night at Right Track studios. “I like to hear myself on the radio. I like how quick Roc-A-Fella moves. They move too quick. Quick as lightning. I’m talking about Superman, the Legion of Doom, Flash.”

The Roc can only move as rapidly as Dirty allows them to, which is pretty swiftly.

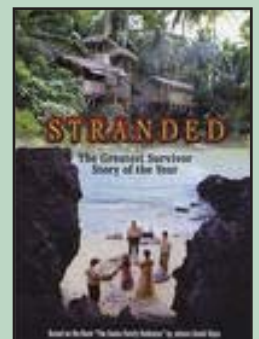
McGirt has only been a free man for a week and a day (see “Ol’ Dirty Bastard Now Dirt McGirt, Signs To Roc-A-Fella”) and already he has two songs getting play on the radio. Earlier in the week, Roc-A-Fella released Dirty’s “Welcome Home” with Nicole Wray, and on Thursday a remake of sorts of KRS-One’s “Sound of Da Police,” which features ODB, Beanie Sigel and Peedi Crakk, hit the airwaves.

This is ODB’s first recording since being released back into society.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

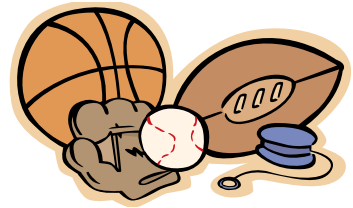
Country Western Dance at 1830Z.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “Stranded.”



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Benito Santiago drove in four runs in the Giants' rout on Friday.

Santiago breaks game open with homer in eighth

ATLANTA — Benito Santiago credits the warm weather with his production at the plate. Santiago and Jose Cruz Jr. each hit three-run homers and drove in four runs apiece as the San Francisco Giants won their sixth straight game, beating the Atlanta Braves 9-2 Friday night.

The win also gave the Giants a 4-0 record on their road trip, coming off a three-game sweep of the Florida Marlins.

"I love the hot weather. I grew up in it. I wish we had 15 more games here," said Santiago, who was born in Puerto Rico. He went 2-for-3 and raised his average to .304.

"Right now I'm going good," said Santiago, who had a go-ahead homer on Tuesday night, added two RBI in a win Wednesday and was given the day off Thursday.

The Giants pulled away from a 3-2 lead in the eighth inning on Santiago's three-run homer to win a matchup of the teams with the NL's two best records. It was the first time the clubs have met since San Francisco beat the Braves in the first round of last year's play-offs.

Andruw Jones, who set a Braves' franchise record Thursday with an RBI in his ninth straight game, went 0-for-3 with a walk.

Santiago's homer made it 6-2 in the eighth. He connected off rookie left-hander Jung Keun Bong after a walk to Rich Aurilia and single by Barry Bonds.

He described his homer as "beautiful."

"I had swung too hard on the previous pitch, so I just told myself to just settle down and get a good pitch to hit," said Santiago.

Bonds went 2-for-5, stole a base and scored twice.

"You have good days and bad days. Today was a good day. Now we'll rest and go again tomorrow," he said.

Cruz was 0-for-3 before homering in the ninth. Jim Brower singled and Aurilia walked before Cruz hit his eighth home run off Jim Dawley.

Brower picked up his second save with three scoreless innings.

Santiago had a sacrifice fly in a two-run sixth, with the other run

coming on a sacrifice fly by Cruz.

Santiago singled and scored on a single by Marquis Grissom in the first inning off Greg Maddux.

Maddux (3-4) gave up five hits and three runs in seven innings.

"I pitched good enough to lose, I guess," said Maddux. "Sometimes you have to win 2-1. It was a better game than the boxscore will show. It was close for the most part."

Rookie Jesse Foppert (2-2) made his fourth major league start, giving up two runs and five hits in six innings, his best effort since losing 1-0 to the Philadelphia Phillies and Kevin Millwood's no-hitter on April 27.

"I knew I had to throw a good game to beat Maddux," he said. "He's a great pitcher and it's kind of hard not to get caught up in that."

Both Atlanta runs came on solo homers. Chipper Jones hit one in the second and Marcus Giles homered in the sixth.

Schilling picks up first shut-out since April 7, 2002

PITTSBURGH — Curt Schilling has been so good for so long, the Arizona Diamondbacks usually don't get overly excited when he makes an exceptional start. This time, they did.

Schilling, finally looking like the dominating pitcher of the last two seasons, limited slumping Pittsburgh to four singles in his first shutout in more than a year and the Diamondbacks beat the Pirates 5-0 Friday night.

Rod Barajas drove in Arizona's first two runs and Junior Spivey hit a three-run homer as the Pirates lost their seventh straight — matching their longest losing streak in two seasons.

Schilling (2-2) was much better than he was Saturday against Atlanta, when he allowed five runs and eight hits in five innings in his first start since April 17. He was out for 2½ weeks after his appendix was removed April 19.

"That's the Curt Schilling we like to see," manager Bob Brenly said. "The ball was jumping out of his hand. He throwing 97-98, and he was moving the ball in and out, up and down. When he's doing that, that's what can happen to a ballclub."

Retiring 16 of the first 17 batters, Schilling (2-2) struck out 10 and walked none in by far his most effective start this season. He allowed at least two runs in each of his first five starts, lasting more than six innings only twice.



Romanians take 1st ever Kandahar run

Story and photo by

Spc. Jim Wagner

109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Romanian army Cpts. Suci Ioan and Mihal Muresan took the first place in the first Kandahar St. Michael's Airborne Association run Thursday, crossing the finish line side-by-side — nearly a full minute ahead of the second-place runner, Spc. Greg Harris, a radio telephone operator with C Company, 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

Ioan and Muresan finished the 6.2-mile race in 36 minutes, 31 seconds, a full 43 seconds ahead of Harris, who finished with a 37:14 time. All three said the conditions in Afghanistan affected their times.

"Because of the conditions, the heat and the elevation, we ran slower," Ioan said. He said a normal time for a 6.2-mile race in Romania is somewhere in the mid-31 minute range for himself and Muresan. Harris said his pace puts him somewhere around 34 minutes back in the U.S.

Other factors contributing to a slower run time was the uneven running surface, which shifted from gravel to sand to black-top throughout the course, making runners more self-conscious of their stride.

The two Romanians were nothing but modest over their convincing win Thurs-



Romanian army Cpts. Suci Ioan and Mihal Muresan cross the finish together to win the 1st ever St. Michael's Airborne Association Kandahar 6.2-mile run Thursday. The two finished the race a full 43 seconds before the second-place runner.

day, thanking their American hosts and the volunteers who made the race happen in the first place.

"We're feeling good, and want to thank our colleagues and fellow runners," Muresan said. "It was very well organized.

"All of us that ran in the race today are winners," he continued, "and I'm happy I was able to participate."

According to race director Capt. Jerry

Hicks, Headquarters and A Company, 307th Logistics Task Force executive officer, approximately 900 U.S., Romanian and Italian soldiers signed up for the event, and another 400 unit formations unofficially participated in the race.

"It was awesome," he said. "Who would have though we'd have more than 1,300 run a race in Kandahar, Afghanistan?"

A team of 45 volunteers were instrumental in the success of the event, Hicks said, volunteers who manned the water stations found at every two-mile mark on the course, set up and cleaned up after the event, and kept track of the registered runners at the finish line.

Because of the efforts of the volunteers who were at the finish line, the race committee was able to hand out awards to the top winners in the six categories (broken down by sex and age group).

Hicks made particular mention to the medical staff on hand, in the air and on the ground, in case of injury, and the engineers who watered down the course and grated the back stretch of the course for a more stable running surface.

RASCON, from Page B1

ever since."

Rascon's airborne drive earned him master parachutist wings along with many other awards. Aside from receiving the CMH, Rascon holds a number of combat citations from other countries. He has been inducted into the Officer's Candidate School Hall Fame and has been named one of the most influential Hispanic Americans by Hispanic Magazine. In his military career he has served a total of 14 years overseas to include seven years in Panama and two tours in Vietnam. Of the 3,400 CMH recipients he is one of 168 still living.

With all of these achievements "under his belt," Rascon takes little credit for himself, and attributes all his success to the organization who gave him the opportunity to succeed.

"The Army is the only organization that gives you a chance for success regardless of race, sex or creed," said Rascon. "In the Army, your performance is the only thing that is judged, not your family

background, education or social circle. The Army opened its gates to me at the age of 17, and I have succeeded above and beyond what anyone would have thought."

In a few weeks Rascon will be departing Afghanistan to visit troops involved in other operations in other parts of the world to give them his support and let them know they have not been forgotten.

"I consider Afghanistan to be the quiet front but it is still the front and a dangerous place," said Rascon. "Even though combat operations may be over, troops are still dying out here and it's important to let them know they have not been forgotten."

"I want the troops to know that it's not just Medal of Honor recipients who make our nation great, but all men and women in uniform who serve our country," he added. "Medal of Honor recipients are special, but they are just regular servicemembers of all races and cultures doing their duty for God and country, but most of all for their comrades."

SPORTS from Page B3

"I've probably been the worst starting pitcher on the staff, and it's been disappointing and frustrating," said Schilling, who won 45 games the last two seasons. "It's May, and I only had one victory. The way things are going for us, I'm expected to win."

Schilling repeatedly got ahead in the count with fastballs that reached 99 mph, then mixed in breaking balls and a splitter Pirates shortstop Jack Wilson said was unhittable.

"The ball was exploding out of his hand," Wilson said. "You couldn't even see the split. It got to the plate and disappeared."

The shutout was Schilling's 18th and his first since beating Milwaukee on April 7, 2002. He has pitched one shutout in each of the last five seasons.

With ace Randy Johnson out for another five weeks following knee surgery, the Diamondbacks badly need Schilling to return to his 23-win form of last season. Before Friday, Schilling and Johnson were a combined 2-4 — a major turnaround from last season, when they were 13-2 at this point of the season.

Solution from Friday's Percussion Session Crossword in the *Freedom Watch*

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)



2002 NBA standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic

(2) New Jersey	49-33
(4) Philadelphia	48-34
(6) Boston	44-38
(8) Orlando	42-40
Washington	37-45

Central

(1) Detroit	50-32
(3) Indiana	48-34
(5) New Orleans	47-35
(7) Milwaukee	42-40
Atlanta	35-47



Western Conference

Midwest

(1) San Antonio	60-22
(3) Dallas	60-22
(4) Minnesota	51-31
(7) Utah	47-35
Houston	43-39

Pacific

(2) Sacramento	59-23
(5) L.A. Lakers	50-32
(6) Portland	50-32
(8) Phoenix	44-38
Seattle	40-42



By Mark Baker

Pvt. Murphy's Law

Kandahar chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel service

Monday

- ❖ 1130Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel choir practice

Tuesday

- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox/Catholic Bible study
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- ❖ 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice

Bagram chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel service

Monday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers

Tuesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- ❖ 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice
- ❖ 1500Z — Rosary and prayers

K2 chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0330Z — Liturgical service
- ❖ 0430Z, 1200Z — General protestant service
- ❖ 0600Z — Roman Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1300Z — Latter Day Saints

Monday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass

Tuesday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Midweek Praise service

Thursday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass

Friday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study

Saturday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1200Z — Roman Catholic Mass

CJCMOTF chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0630Z — Nondenominational service













Tuesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Catholic service (every other Tuesday)

Wednesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study



	Bagram	K2	Kabul	KAF
W Today				
	Hi — 86F Lo — 50F	Hi — 72F Lo — 45F	Hi — 82F Lo — 50F	Hi — 95F Lo — 61F
e				
a				
t Sunday	Hi — 84F Lo — 46F	Hi — 76F Lo — 45F	Hi — 77F Lo — 45F	Hi — 90F Lo — 54F
h				
e				
r Monday	Hi — 75F Lo — 45F	Hi — 79F Lo — 45F	Hi — 73F Lo — 43F	Hi — 90F Lo — 54F

KMTC chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0430Z — Protestant Service
- ❖ 0530Z — Roman Catholic Mass/Eucharist
- ❖ 0630Z — Latter Day Saints
- ❖ 1630Z — Protestant Service

Wednesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Bible Study

Friday

- ❖ 1530Z — Thank God It's Friday fellowship and singing

All events are held in FOB195 Chapel/Conference Room area.